

**STUDY GUIDE**

**FOR THE**

**BOATING LAWS AND RULES**

**GOVERNING**

**RIVER RUNNING**

**IN**

**UTAH**

(Revised April 2001)



Utah State Parks and Recreation  
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# UTAH STATE PARKS AND RECREATION

## STUDY GUIDE FOR THE BOATING LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING RIVER RUNNING IN UTAH

This study guide is for river runners to review when preparing to take the Utah River Guide 1 or 2 Permit test. **This study guide does not contain the entire Boating Laws and Rules for Utah.** You should be familiar with all of the boating laws and rules pertaining to boating in Utah. For a complete copy of Utah's Boating Laws and Rules or *Utah Boating Basics* (a boating safety home study course), contact Utah State Parks and Recreation, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 116, P.O. Box 146001, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6001, 801-538-7220, a State Park Ranger, or visit the web site: <http://parks.state.ut.us>.

## River Guide Application, Testing and Issuance Centers

	<b><u>Office Hours</u></b>	<b><u>Testing Hours</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Utah State Parks and Recreation Division Office 1594 West North Temple, Suite 116 P.O. Box 146001 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6001 (801) 538-7361	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Guide testing and permitting by appointment only.</b>	Closed Weekends and Holidays.
Utah State Parks and Recreation Southeast Region Office 1165 South Highway 191, Suite 7 Moab, Utah 84532 (435) 259-3750	8 a.m. - 12 noon 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Guide testing and permitting by appointment only.</b>	Closed Weekends and Holidays.
Utah State Parks and Recreation Steinaker State Park Office 4335 North Highway 191 Vernal, Utah 84078-7800 (435) 789-4432	Summer Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Winter Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Guide testing and permitting by appointment only.</b>	Closed Weekends and Holidays.

**DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED, CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT!**

EXCERPTS FROM:

## UTAH BOATING ACT

TITLE 73, CHAPTER 18, UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 1953, As Amended  
AND

## BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOATING RULES

RULES OF THE BOARD ARE PRECEDED BY R651.

Special Note:

*“Italics”* indicates that information has been added for clarification and ease of understanding.

**“Bold”** has been added for point of emphasis.

“Underline” indicates a grouping of information into specific categories.

### STATEMENT OF POLICY

73-18-1            It is the policy of this state to regulate and promote safety for persons and property in and connected with the use, operation and equipment of vessels and to promote uniformity of laws and to adopt and pursue an educational program in relation thereto.

### BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

R651-202-1            A Boating Advisory Council, consisting of six members, has been appointed by the Board to represent boaters and others in boating matters. There is one member from each of the following interests: United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, sailing or non-powered craft users, wildlife and outdoor recreation associations, marine dealers, personal watercraft users, and river runners.

### DEFINITIONS

R651-206-2(1)(a) **“Agent”** means a person(s) designated by an outfitting company to act in behalf of that company in certifying a river guide's experience.

R651-201-1            **“Approved”** means approved by the commandant of the United States Coast Guard, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning. For carburetor backfire flame control devices “approved” means the device is marked with one of the following: a United States Coast Guard approval number; complies with Underwriters Laboratory test UL 1111; or complies with the Society of Automotive Engineers test SAE J-1928.

73-18-2(1)            **“Board”** means the Board of Parks and Recreation.

73-18-2(2)            **“Boat livery”** means an entity which holds any vessel for renting, leasing, or chartering.

73-18-2(3)            **“Carrying passengers for hire”** means to transport persons on vessels or to lead persons on vessels for consideration.

- R651-206-2(1)(b) **“Certifying experience”** means river running experience obtained within ten years of the date of application for the guide permit.
- 73-18-2(4) **“Consideration”** means something of value given or done in exchange for something given or done by another.
- 73-18-2(6) **“Division”** means the Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation.
- R651-206-2(1)(c) **“Guide 1”** means a nonrestrictive river guide permit.
- R651-206-2(1)(d) **“Guide 2”** means a restricted river guide permit, which is valid only on “other rivers”.
- R651-206-2(1)(e) **“Guide 3”** means an apprentice river guide permit, which is valid only when the holder is accompanied on the “whitewater river” by a qualified Guide 1 permit holder. A Guide 3 permit is also valid on “other rivers” but must be accompanied by either a Guide 1 or 2 permit holder.
- R651-206-2(1)(f) **“Guide 4”** means a restricted apprentice river guide permit, which is valid only on “other rivers” when the holder is accompanied on the trip by a qualified Guide 1 or 2 permit holder.
- R651-206-2(1)(g) **“Guide permit”** means a valid Guide 1, 2, 3, or 4 permit issued by the Division for carrying passengers for hire. For Guide 1 or 2 permits to be valid they must be accompanied by a current “Emergency Response” American Red Cross First Aid Card or equivalent and an American Heart Association or an American Red Cross “CPR” Card. For a Guide 3 or 4 permit to be valid they must be accompanied by a current “Standard” American Red Cross First Aid Card or equivalent and an American Heart Association or an American Red Cross “CPR” Card. A photo copy of both sides of the required first aid and CPR certification cards is allowed. *Contact the Salt Lake Office of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation for a listing of Division approved first aid courses.*
- R651-206-2(1)(h) **“Low capacity vessel”** means a vessel with a carrying capacity of three or fewer occupants (e.g., canoe, kayak, inflatable kayak or similar vessel).
- 73-18-2(7) **“Motorboat”** means any vessel propelled by machinery, whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion.
- 73-18-2(8) **“Operate”** means to navigate, control, or otherwise use a vessel.
- 73-18-2(9) **“Operator”** means the person who is in control of a vessel while it is in use.
- R651-206-2(1)(i) **“Other rivers”** means all rivers, river sections, or both in Utah not defined in R651-206-2(1) as a “whitewater river”.
- 73-18-2(10) **“Outfitting company”** means any person who, for consideration:  
(a) provides equipment to transport persons on rivers; and  
(b) supervises guides who operate vessels to transport passengers or to lead persons on vessels.
- 73-18-2(11) **“Owner”** means a person, other than a lien holder, holding a proprietary interest in or the title to a vessel. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a vessel subject to an interest by another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment or performance of an obligation. The term does

not include a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

- R651-215-1(1) **“PFD”** means Personal Flotation Device (*more commonly known as a life jacket*).
- 73-18-2(14) **“Vessel”** means every type of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.
- R651-215-1(2) **“Vessel length”** is the measurement of the permanent part of the hull, from bow to stern, across the deck down the centerline, excluding sheer.
- 73-18-2(15) **“Wakeless speed”** means an operating speed at which the vessel does not create or make a wake or white water trailing the vessel. This speed is not in excess of five miles per hour.
- 73-18-2(16) **“Waters of this state”** means any waters within the territorial limits of this state.
- R651-215-1(3) **“Wear”** means to have the PFD properly worn with all fasteners connected.
- R651-215-1(4) **“Whitewater canoe”** means a one or two person capacity hard hulled canoe designed for whitewater activities and is equipped with: floatation (e.g., factory end chambers or float bags) and thigh straps or retention devices to hold the operator(s) in the vessel if it rolls.
- R651-206-2(1)(j) **“Whitewater river”** means the following river sections: the Green and Yampa rivers within Dinosaur National Monument, the Green River in Desolation-Gray Canyon (Mile 96 to Mile 20), the Colorado River in Westwater Canyon, the Colorado River in Cataract Canyon, or other Division recognized “whitewater rivers” in other states. A *“whitewater river” is a river or river section with Class III or above rapids when using the International Scale of River Difficulty. See the Appendix for information regarding the river classification system.*

## **CARRYING PASSENGERS FOR HIRE REQUIREMENTS**

### **River Guide Permits:**

- R651-206-2(2) **Possession of a valid permit.** No person shall operate a vessel engaged in carrying passengers for hire on any river of this state unless that person has in his possession the appropriate valid river guide permit.
- R651-206-2(7) **Guide permit application requirements.** Any person applying for a duplicate, renewal, or a new guide permit shall be employed by or be a prospective employee of an outfitting company currently registered with the Division. The applicant shall be sponsored by the outfitting company, or be currently employed and sponsored by a federal, state or county agency. Permit applications must have original signatures and be accompanied by original documentation of required first aid and CPR certification.
- R651-206-2(3) **Guide 1 permit.** To qualify for a Guide 1 permit, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age, complete the prescribed form, be current in the required first aid and CPR certification, successfully complete a written examination, pay a \$30 fee and have operated a vessel on at least nine “whitewater river” sections. If the applicant fails to pass the written examination, there is a 7-day waiting period and a \$15 retest fee per attempt.

- R651-206-2(4) **Guide 2 permit.** To qualify for a Guide 2 permit, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age, complete the prescribed form, be current in the required first aid and CPR certification, successfully complete a written examination, pay a \$30 fee and have operated a vessel on at least six river sections. If the applicant fails to pass the written examination, there is a 7-day waiting period and a \$15 retest fee per attempt.
- R651-206-2(5) **Guide 3 permit.** To qualify for a Guide 3 permit, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age, complete the prescribed form, be current in the required first aid and CPR certification, pay a \$20 fee and have operated a vessel on at least three “whitewater” river sections.
- R651-206-2(6) **Guide 4 permit.** To qualify for a Guide 4 permit, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age, complete the prescribed form, be current in the required first aid and CPR certification, pay a \$20 fee and have operated a vessel on at least three river sections.
- R651-206-2(13) **Experience restriction.** A guide permit holder shall not carry passengers for hire on his first trip on an unfamiliar river unless there is a qualified Guide 1 or 2 permit holder aboard who has operated a similar vessel on that river segment.
- R651-206-2(2) **Guide to “low capacity vessel” ratio.** For “low capacity vessels” not operated by, but led by a guide permit holder, there shall be at least one qualified guide permit holder for every four low capacity vessels being led in the group.
- R651-206-2(8) **Expiration dates of guide permits.** Guide 3 and 4 permits shall expire annually on December 31. Guide 1 and 2 permits shall expire three years from date of issuance.
- R651-206-2(9) **Renewal of guide permits.** Guide 1 or 2 permits may be renewed up to six months prior to expiration upon completion of the prescribed form, presentation of current guide permit, required first aid and CPR certification, and payment of a \$30 fee. The renewed permit shall have the same month and day expiration date as the original permit. Any Guide 1 or 2 permit holder whose permit has expired shall be required to obtain a new Guide 1 or 2 permit as outlined above.
- R651-206-2(10) **Replacement of guide permits.** In the event a guide permit is lost or stolen a duplicate guide permit may be issued with the same expiration date as the original permit upon completion of the prescribed form, furnishing the required information as described in R651-206-2(7) and payment of the required fee. The fee shall be \$15 for a guide 1 or 2 permit and \$15 for a guide 3 or 4 permit.
- R651-206-2(12) **Change of address.** Current guide permit holders shall notify the Division, within 30 days, of any change of address.
- R651-206-2(14) **Suspension or revocation of a guide permit.** A guide permit may be suspended or revoked for a length of time determined by the Division Director, or individual designated by the Division Director, if one of the following occurs:
- (a) the guide permit holder is convicted of boating under the influence of alcohol or any drug, or refuses to submit to any chemical test which determines blood or breath alcohol content;
  - (b) the guide permit holder's negligence causes personal injury or death as determined by due process of the law;
  - (c) the guide permit holder is convicted of three violations of Title 73, Chapter 18 or rules promulgated thereunder during a three-year period;
  - (d) the Division determines that the guide permit holder intentionally provided false

- or fictitious statements or qualifications to obtain the guide permit; or
- (e) a guide permit holder has utilized a private river trip permit for carrying passengers for hire and has been prosecuted by the issuing agency and found guilty of the violation.

### **Outfitting Company Responsibilities:**

- R651-206-2(15) ***Outfitting company registration.*** Every outfitting company carrying passengers for hire on any river of this state shall register with the Division annually prior to commencement of operation. The registration requires the completion of the prescribed form and providing the following: evidence of registration with the Department of Commerce, evidence of river trip authorization from the appropriate controlling state or federal agency, and payment of a \$200 fee.
- R651-206-2(16) ***Role of certifying agent.*** The agent shall certify and guarantee that each river guide sponsored by the outfitting company that he represents has obtained the necessary experience, as required above, depending on the type of guide permit applied for.
- R651-206-2(17) ***Suspension or revocation of an outfitting company registration.*** An outfitting company's Division registration may be suspended or revoked for a length of time determined by the Division Director, or individual designated by the Division Director, if one of the following occurs:
- (a) the outfitting company's or agent's negligence caused personal injury or death as determined by due process of the law;
  - (b) the outfitting company or agent is convicted of three violations of Title 73 Chapter 18 or rules promulgated thereunder during a calendar year period;
  - (c) false or fictitious statements were certified or false qualifications were used to qualify a person to obtain a guide permit for an employee or others;
  - (d) the Division determines that the outfitting company intentionally provided false or fictitious statements or qualifications when registering with the Division;
  - (e) an outfitting company has utilized a private river trip permit for carrying passengers for hire and have been prosecuted by the issuing agency and found guilty of the violation; or
  - (f) the outfitting company used a guide without a valid guide permit or without the appropriate guide permit while engaging in carrying passengers for hire.

### **PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE REQUIREMENTS**

- R651-215-4 **Types of personal flotation devices.**
- Type I PFD - Off Shore Life Jacket.** Provides a minimum of 22 pounds of floatation. Will turn most unconscious wearers to a face-up position. Acceptable for use on all vessels. *Effective for all waters, especially open, rough or remote waters where rescue may be delayed.*
- Type II PFD - Near Shore Buoyant Vest.** Provides a minimum of 15.5 pounds of floatation. Will turn some unconscious wearers to a face-up position. *Intended for calm, inland waters or where there is a good chance of quick rescue.*
- Type III PFD - Floatation Aid.** Provides a minimum of 15.5 pounds of floatation. There are many designs for specific water sports and activities. *Designed so wearers can place themselves in a face-up position.*

**Type IV PFD - Throwable Device.** Provides a minimum of 16.5 pounds of floatation. Designed to be thrown to a person in the water, grasped and held by the user until rescued.

**Type V PFD - Special Use Device.** Designed and approved only for the activities listed on the label.

- 73-18-8(1)(a) **One PFD per person on board.** Except as provided in 73-18-8(1)(c), each vessel shall have, for each person on board, one Personal Flotation Device (*PFD*) which is approved for the type of use by the commandant of the United States Coast Guard.
- 73-18-8(1)(b) **PFD in good and serviceable condition.** Each Personal Flotation Device (*PFD*) shall be:
- (i) in serviceable condition (*see Appendix for additional information*);
  - (ii) legally marked with the United States Coast Guard approval number; and
  - (iii) of an appropriate size for the person for whom it is intended.
- R651-215-10 **Passengers for Hire PFD Requirements.** When carrying passengers for hire, except on rivers, Type I PFDs are required. The required Type IV PFD shall be a ring life buoy on vessels 26 feet or more in length.
- 73-18-8.(1)(d) **The Board may require by rule for personal flotation devices to be worn:**
- (i) while a person is on board a certain type of vessel;
  - (ii) by a person under a certain age; or
  - (iii) on certain waters of this state.
- R651-215-2. **PFD requirements for vessels less than 16 feet in length.** No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of a vessel less than 16 feet in length unless there is at least one type I, II, or III PFD for each person on board.
- R651-215-3. **PFD requirements for vessels 16 feet or more in length.** No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of a vessel 16 feet or more in length unless there is at least one type I, II, or III PFD for each person on board. In addition to the total number of PFDs, there shall also be one Type IV PFD on board.
- R651-215-11 **Required wearing of PFDs.**
- (1) An inflatable PFD may not be used to meet the requirements of R651-215-11.
  - (2) All persons on board a personal watercraft (PWC) shall wear a PFD.
  - (3) The operator of a vessel under 19 feet in length shall require each passenger 12 years of age or younger to wear a PFD. This rule is also applicable to vessels 19 feet or more in length, except when the child is inside the cabin area.
  - (4) On rivers, every person on board a vessel shall wear a PFD, except PFDs may be loosened or removed by persons 13 years of age or older on designated "river flat water" areas *as listed in R651-215-12*. When carrying passengers for hire, the river guide is responsible for the passengers on his vessel to be in compliance with this subsection.
- R651-215-12 **"River flat water" areas.**
- (1) On the Green River:
    - (a) from Red Creek Camp below Red Creek Rapids to the Indian Crossing Boat Ramp;
    - (b) from 100 yards below Taylor Flats Bridge to the Utah/Colorado state line in Browns Park;
    - (c) within Dinosaur National Monument, from the mouth of Whirlpool Canyon to the head of Split Mountain Gorge;



- (d) from the mouth of Split Mountain to Jack Creek in Desolation Canyon; and
- (e) from the Green River Diversion Dam below Gray Canyon to the confluence with the Colorado River.

(2) On the Colorado River:

- (a) from the Colorado/Utah state line to the Westwater Ranger Station;
- (b) from Big Hole Canyon in Westwater Canyon to Onion Creek;
- (c) from Drinks Canyon, mile 70, to the confluence with the Green River; and
- (d) after the last active rapid in Cataract Canyon.

(3) On the San Juan River, after the last active rapid prior to Lake Powell.

R651-215-8

**Carrying passengers for hire PFD requirements on rivers.** On rivers, if carrying passengers for hire, Type I PFDs are required, except *hard hulled* kayak or whitewater canoe operators or a working river guide may wear a Type III PFD, if approved on the label for this activity. The required Type IV PFD shall be a ring life buoy on vessels 26 feet or more in length.

R651-215-7

**“Whitewater river” PFD requirements.** On “whitewater rivers”, as defined in R651-206-2(1)(j), Type I or Type III PFDs, if approved on the label for the activity, are required.

R651-215-6

**Type V PFD carried in lieu.** A Type V PFD may be carried in lieu of any required PFD, but only if the Type V PFD is approved for the activity in which the vessel is being used.

*Type V PFDs are the most common type of PFD used when carrying passengers for hire on rivers. They are more comfortable, adjustable and employ a fastening system different than Type I PFDs. These PFDs must have a minimum of 22 lbs. of floatation, straps around the body with buckles, a floatation collar behind the head and ample size adjustment to fit a wide range of wearers. The information listed on the United States Coast Guard approval label of a Type V PFD - Commercial White Water Vest may read as follows:*

*COMMERCIAL WHITE WATER VEST. Approved only for use by persons engaged in commercial white water service within the USA. This is a Type V PFD because it has restricted USCG approval allowing it to be used in place of a Type I PFD in commercial whitewater activities only. When worn it offers special protection to those participating in the activities and therefore, must be worn at all times in order to be accepted for meeting the United States Coast Guard regulations requiring PFDs to be carried.*

*In addition to Type V PFD labeling, many manufacturers will also have the PFD labeled as a Type III PFD. Because Type III PFDs are approved for non-commercial use, dual labeling allows the manufacturers to market the vest to both commercial outfitters and private boaters. The information listed on the United States Coast Guard approval label of a Type III PFD - Floatation Aid may read as follows:*

*FLOATATION AID (TYPE III PFD). Approved for use on all recreational boats and on uninspected commercial vessels less than 40 feet (12 meters) in length not carrying passengers for hire by persons weighing more than 90 pounds.*

R651-215-5      **Immediately available and readily accessible.** Type IV PFDs shall be immediately available; all other types of PFDs shall be readily accessible, unless wearing is required.

R651-215-9      **River throw bag in lieu of type IV PFD.** On rivers, in lieu of the Type IV PFD requirement, a throw bag with a minimum of 40 feet of line may be carried.

**OTHER SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIRED TO BE ON BOARD**

R651-219-1      **Sound producing device.** Vessels 16 feet to less than 40 feet in length shall have on board a means of making an efficient sound, horn or whistle, capable of a four-to-six-second blast.

R651-219-2      **Bailing device.** All vessels, not of self-bailing design, shall have on board an adequate bail bucket or be equipped with a mechanical means for pumping the bilge.

R651-219-3      **Spare propulsion.** Vessels less than 21 feet in length shall have on board at least one spare motor, paddle, or oar capable of maneuvering the vessel when necessary.

***Spare paddle requirement for “low capacity vessels”.*** On rivers when one-or-two-man capacity vessels less than 16 feet in length are traveling in a group, the above requirement may be met by carrying one spare oar or paddle for every three vessels in the group. On hard hulled white water kayaks, paddles designed to be strapped to or worn on the hand meet this requirement.

R651-219-5      **Equipment good and serviceable.** All required safety equipment shall be in good and serviceable condition.

R651-217-1      ***Fire extinguisher requirements.*** All motorboats, unless exempt, must have on board the approved type of fire extinguisher as specified in R651-217-2.

R651-217-2      **Fire extinguishers required.**

<u>Length of Motorboat</u>	<u>Number/Size</u>
Less than 26 feet in length *	1/B-I
26 feet to less than 40 feet in length	2/B-I or 1/B-II
40 feet to 65 feet in length	3/B-I or 1/B-I & 1/B-II

\* If an outboard motorboat is of open construction and not carrying passengers for hire, a fire extinguisher is not required (see R651-217-5).

R651-217-3      **Fire extinguisher types.**

<u>Type:</u>	<u>Foam</u>	<u>Carbon Dioxide</u>	<u>Dry Chemical</u>	<u>Halon</u>
B-I	1.25 gal	4 lbs	2 lbs	2.5 lbs
B-II	2.5 gal	15 lbs	10 lbs	10 lbs

R651-217-4      ***Fixed extinguishing system.*** When the engine compartment is equipped with a fixed extinguishing system, one less B-I extinguisher is required.

R651-217-5      ***Open construction.*** An outboard motorboat is not considered “of open construction” if any one of the following conditions exist: closed compartment under thwarts (motor well) and seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored; double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with flotation material; closed living spaces; closed stowage compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stored; or permanently installed fuel tanks.

73-18-8(3) **Ventilation requirement.** If a vessel is not entirely open and it carries or uses any flammable or toxic fluid in any enclosure for any purpose, the vessel must be equipped with an efficient natural or mechanical ventilation system which is capable of removing resulting gases prior to and during the time the vessel is occupied by any person.

73-18-8(2) **Navigation lights.** Each vessel shall display navigation lights when the vessel is on the waters of this state between sunset and sunrise.

R651-216-7 **Visible Range.**

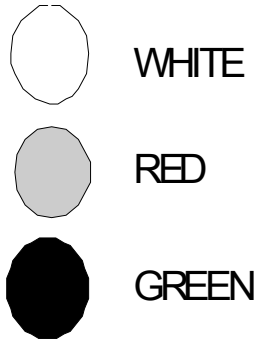


Figure 1





Location of lights on vessel	Visible Range		Degrees of Arc Lights
	Less than 12 m.	12 m. but less than 20 m	
in miles			
 Masthead	2	3	225
 All-Around	2	2	360
 Side Lights	1	2	112.5 Each color
 Stem Light	2	2	135

Figure 2

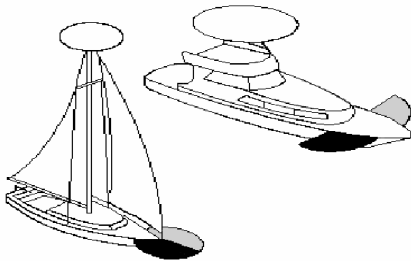


Figure 3

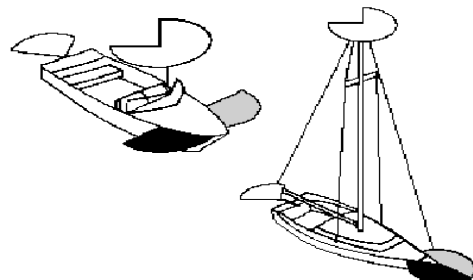
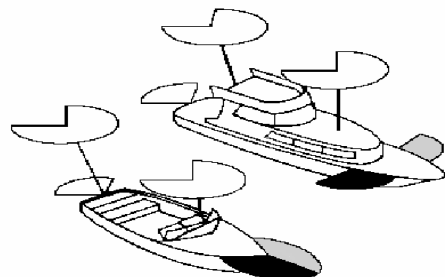


Figure 4



- R651-216-1 **Motorboats less than 40 feet** in length shall exhibit the navigation lights shown in either figures 1, 2, or 3.
- R651-216-5 ***Manually Propelled Vessels.*** A vessel manually propelled may exhibit the navigation lights required for sailboats or have ready at hand a flashlight or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be displayed in sufficient time to prevent collision (figure 4).
- R651-216-6 **Vessels at anchor** shall display an all-around white anchor light unless anchored in a designated mooring area.
- 73-18-8.1(2) **Capacity and certification label.** No person shall operate, or give permission for the operation of, any vessel on the waters of this state if it is loaded or powered in excess of the maximum capacity information on the United States Coast Guard capacity label.

## **VESSEL REGISTRATION AND NUMBERING REQUIREMENTS**

- 73-18-7(1)(a) ***Vessels required to be registered.*** Each motorboat and sailboat on the waters of this state shall be registered.
- 73-18-7(1)(b) ***Registration required.*** A person may not place, or give permission for the placement of, a motorboat or sailboat on any waters of this state or operate or give permission for the operation of a motorboat or sailboat on the waters of this state, unless the motorboat or sailboat is registered in accordance with the following:
- R651-212-1 ***Display of annual registration decals.*** A registration decal shall be displayed three inches aft of the assigned (*bow*) number on each side of the vessel. Only current year registration decals may be displayed.
- R651-209-1 ***Registration expiration.*** The registration decals and cards shall expire annually on the last day of April.
- 73-18-7(3)(b) ***Registration card.*** The registration card shall be available for inspection on the motorboat or sailboat for which it was issued, whenever that motorboat or sailboat is in operation.
- 73-18-9(1) ***Nonresident exemption from registration.*** A motorboat or sailboat already covered by a valid registration issued by its nonresident owner's resident state and it has not been within this state in excess of 14 days for the calendar year.
- 73-18-6(1) ***Vessels required to be numbered.*** Every motorboat and sailboat on the waters of this state shall be numbered. No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of any motorboat or sailboat on the waters of this state unless the motorboat or sailboat is numbered in accordance with the following:
- 73-18-7(4) ***Placement, size, color and style of bow numbers.*** The assigned (*bow*) number shall:
- (a) be painted or permanently attached to each side of the forward half of the motorboat or sailboat;
  - (b) consist of plain vertical block characters of not less than three inches in height;
  - (c) contrast with the color of the background and be distinctly visible and legible;
  - (d) have spaces or hyphens equal to the width of a letter between the letter and numeral groupings; and

(e) read from left to right.

- R651-208-1 **Bow numbers displayed on backing plates.** On vessels where an assigned (bow) number on the hull or superstructure would not be visible or where the type of hull material used would make it impractical to attach an assigned (bow) number, the assigned (bow) number and registration decals may be mounted on a backing plate and displayed as required in 73-18-7(4).
- 73-18-7(16) **Display of bow number only.** No number other than the (bow) number assigned to a motorboat or sailboat or a (bow) number for a motorboat or sailboat granted reciprocity under this chapter may be painted, attached, or otherwise displayed on either side of the bow of a motorboat or sailboat.

### **BOAT LIVERY (RENTAL COMPANY) DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

- 73-18-10(1) **Record keeping.** The owner of a boat livery shall keep a record of the following: the name and address of the person hiring any vessel; the identification number of the vessel; the vessel's departure date and time; and the vessel's expected time of return. The record shall be preserved for at least one year.
- 73-18-10(2) **Safety equipment and explanation of laws and rules to be provided.** Neither the owner of a boat livery, nor his agent or employee may permit any vessel to depart from the premises of the boat livery unless the owner has equipped it as required under this chapter and unless he has advised the lessee or renter of the vessel of all rules promulgated under this chapter which the lessee or renter must obey.
- R651-221-1 **Rental agreement required to be on board.** The owner of a boat livery or his representative shall provide a copy of the lease or rental agreement, signed by the owner or his representative and by the person leasing or renting the vessel. The lease or rental agreement shall contain the following information and be carried on board the vessel: the vessel's assigned number; the period of time for which the vessel is leased or rented; and a check-off list of the required safety equipment. The registration card may be retained on shore by the boat livery.

### **ZONED WATERS**

- R651-205-1 **Obeying zoned waters.** The operator of a vessel shall obey zoned water requirements or restrictions.
- R651-205-3 **Green River.** The use of motors is prohibited between the Flaming Gorge Dam and the confluence with Red Creek.
- R651-205-5 **Lower Provo River.** The section from where it enters into Utah Lake upstream to the gas pipeline is designated as a wakeless speed area, and the use of motors is prohibited upstream from this point.
- R651-205-9 **Jordan River.** The use of motors is prohibited.

### **NAVIGATION AND STEERING RULES - "RULES OF THE ROAD"**

- R651-225-1(1) **Proper lookout.** The operator of a vessel shall maintain a proper lookout by sight and hearing at all times to avoid the risk of collision.

- R651-225-1(2) **Meeting head on - passing bow to bow.** When two motorboats approach each other where there is risk of collision, each shall alter course to the starboard and pass on the port side of the other.
- R651-225-1(3) **Crossing - passing from the side.** When two motorboats are crossing paths and are at risk of a collision, the vessel which has the other vessel on its starboard side shall keep out of the way and yield right-of-way if necessary.
- R651-225-1(4) **Overtaking - passing from the stern.** The operator of any vessel overtaking any other vessel shall keep out of the way of the vessel being overtaken.
- R651-225-1(5) **Vessels not under command.** A motorboat underway shall keep out of the way of sailboats and vessels not under command.
- R651-225-1(7) **Collision avoidance.** Where one of two vessels is to keep out of the way, the other vessel operator shall maintain his course and speed unless it becomes apparent the other vessel is not taking the appropriate action.
- R651-225-1(8) **Operation in narrow channels.** In narrow channels vessels underway shall keep to the right of the middle of the channel.
- R651-225-1(9) **Safe operation speed.** The operator of a vessel shall proceed at a safe speed at all times so that he can take proper and effective action to avoid collision and stop at an appropriate distance from the prevailing circumstance or condition.
- R651-225-2 **Speed and proximity.** The operator of any vessel shall not exceed a wakeless speed when within 150 feet of: another vessel; a person in or floating on the water; a water skier (except those he is towing); a shore fisherman; a launching ramp; a dock; or a designated swimming area.
- R651-225-3 **Responsibility for wake damage.** The operator of a motorboat is responsible for any damage and/or injury caused by the wake produced by his vessel.

#### **OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT OR SAILBOAT BY A MINOR**

- 73-18-15.2(1)(a) **Motorboat.** Except as provided in 73-18-15.2(2), a person under 16 years of age may operate a motorboat on the waters of this state, if he is accompanied by a person who is at least 18 years of age.
- 73-18-15.2(1)(b) **Sailboat.** A person under 16 years of age may operate a sailboat, if he is under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 18 years of age.
- 73-18-15.2(2) **Personal watercraft - 12 to 15 years of age.** A person under 16 years of age and 12 years of age or older may operate a personal watercraft (PWC), provided he:  
(a) is under the direct supervision of a person who is at least 18 years of age;  
(b) completes a boating safety course approved by the Division; and  
(c) has in his possession a boating safety certificate issued by the boating safety course provider.
- 73-18-15.2(3) **Personal watercraft - 16 and 17 years of age.** A person under 18 years of age and 16 years of age or older may operate a personal watercraft (PWC), provided he:  
(a) completes a boating safety course approved by the Division; and

(b) has in his possession a boating safety certificate issued by the boating safety course provider.

73-18-15.2(4) **Parental attendance at boating safety course.** A person required to attend a boating safety course under 73-18-15.2(3)(a) need not be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian while completing a boating safety course.

73-18-15.2(5) **Permission for a minor to operate.** No person may give permission to another person to operate a vessel in violation of 73-18-15.2.

73-18-15.2(6) **"Direct supervision".** As used in this section, "direct supervision" means oversight at a distance within which visual contact is maintained.

73-18-18 **Liability of owner for injury or damage occasioned by negligent operation of a vessel by a minor.** The owner of a vessel shall be liable for any injury or damage occasioned by the negligent operation of such vessel, by a minor under the age of 18 years operating such vessel with the express or implied consent of the owner, whether under the laws of this state or by neglecting to observe such ordinary care and such operation as the rules of common law require.

## **RECKLESS BOATING**

73-18-12 No person may operate any vessel, or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, or similar device in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. A violation of 73-18-12 is a class B misdemeanor.

## **BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS**

73-18-12.2(1)(a) **Boating under the influence (BUI).** It is unlawful and punishable as provided in this section for any person to operate a vessel on the waters of this state if:

- (i) the person has a blood or breath alcohol concentration of .08 grams or greater, as shown by any chemical test given within two hours after the alleged operation; or
- (ii) the person is under the influence of alcohol or any drug or the combined influence of alcohol and any drug to a degree which renders the person incapable of safely operating a vessel.

73-18-12.2(1)(b) **Prescription medications.** The fact that a person charged with violating this section is or has been legally entitled to use alcohol or a drug is not a defense against any charge of violating this section.

73-18-12.2(3) **Standard of negligence.** For the purposes of 73-18-12.2, the standard of negligence is that of simple negligence, the failure to exercise that degree of care which an ordinarily reasonable and prudent person exercises under like or similar circumstances.

73-18-12.2(4) **Criminal punishment.** Every person who is convicted of a violation of 73-18-12.2(1) is guilty of a class B misdemeanor, however, if the person has inflicted a bodily injury upon another as a proximate result of having operated the vessel in a negligent manner, he is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

73-18-12.2(11) **Arrest without a warrant.** A peace officer may, without a warrant, arrest a person for a violation of this section when the peace officer has probable cause to believe

the violation has occurred, although not in his presence, and if the peace officer has probable cause to believe that the violation was committed by the person.

- 73-18-12.6(1)(a) ***Implied consent to a chemical test.*** A person operating a vessel on the waters of this state is considered to have given his consent to any chemical test of his breath, blood, or urine for the purpose of determining whether he was operating a vessel while having a blood or breath alcohol content which is statutorily prohibited, or while under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or combination of alcohol and any drug, so long as the test is administered at the direction of a peace officer having grounds to believe that person to have been operating a vessel while having a blood or breath alcohol content which is statutorily prohibited, or while under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or combination of alcohol and any drug. A peace officer shall determine which test shall be administered.
- 73-18-12.6(1)(b) ***Selection of a chemical test.*** A person who has been requested under this section to submit to any chemical test of his breath, blood, or urine, does not have the right to select the test to be administered. The failure or inability of a peace officer to arrange for any specific test is not a defense with regard to taking a test requested by the peace officer, and it is not a defense in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding resulting from a person's refusal to submit to the requested test.
- 73-18-12.6(2) ***Refusal to submit to a chemical test.*** If the person has been placed under arrest and has then been requested by a peace officer to submit to any one or more of the chemical tests provided in 73-18-12.6(1) and refuses to submit to any chemical test, the person shall be warned by the peace officer requesting the test that a refusal to submit to the test is admissible in civil or criminal proceedings as provided under 73-18-12.2(10)(b). Following this warning, unless the person immediately requests the chemical test as offered by a peace officer be administered, no test shall be given and the peace officer shall submit a sworn report, within five days after the date of the arrest, that he had grounds to believe the arrested person had been operating a vessel while having a blood or breath alcohol content which is statutorily prohibited, or while under the influence of alcohol or any drug, or combination of alcohol and any drug and that the person had refused to submit to any chemical test as set forth in 73-18-12.6(1).
- 73-18-12.6(5) ***Person incapable of refusal.*** Any person who is unconscious, or in any other condition rendering him incapable of refusing to submit to any chemical test is considered not to have withdrawn the consent provided for in 73-18-12.6(1), and any test may be administered whether or not the person has been arrested.
- 73-18-12.6(6) ***Requesting results of a chemical test.*** Upon the request of the person who was tested, the results of his test shall be made available to him.
- 73-18-12.6(7) ***Conditions for withdrawal of blood for a chemical test.*** Only a physician, registered nurse, practical nurse, or person authorized under 26-1-30, acting at the request of a peace officer, may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining alcoholic or drug content. This limitation does not apply to the taking of a urine or breath specimen. Any physician, registered nurse, practical nurse, or person authorized under 26-1-30 (19) who, at the direction of a peace officer, draws a sample of blood from any person whom the peace officer has reason to believe is operating a vessel in violation of this chapter, or hospital or medical facility at which the sample is drawn, is immune from any civil or criminal liability arising from it, if the test is administered according to standard medical practice.



- 73-18-12.6(8) **Choice of additional chemical test.** The person to be tested may, at his own expense, have a physician of his own choosing administer any chemical test in addition to any test administered at the direction of the peace officer. The failure or inability to obtain the additional test does not affect admissibility of the results of any test taken at the direction of a peace officer, nor should it preclude or delay any test to be taken at the direction of a peace officer. Any additional test shall be administered subsequent to any test administered at the direction of the peace officer.
- 73-18-12.6(9) **Right to consultation for a chemical test is not permitted.** For the purpose of determining whether to submit to any chemical test, the person to be tested does not have the right to consult an attorney nor is the person permitted to have an attorney, physician, or other person present as a condition for the taking of any test.
- 73-18-12.6(10)(a) **Peace officer may request an additional chemical test.** If a person under arrest has been requested by a peace officer to submit to a breath test only, and the person does take the breath test, the peace officer may request additional tests of the person's blood and urine for the purposes of detecting the presence of drugs or alcohol.
- 73-18-12.6(10)(b) **Refusal to submit to a chemical test may be used as evidence.** If a person under arrest refuses to submit to any chemical test under this section, evidence of refusal is admissible in any civil or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or any drug or combination of alcohol and any drug.
- 73-18-12.7(1) **Seizure and impoundment of a vessel.** If a peace officer arrests or cites the operator of a vessel for violation of 73-18-12.2 , the peace officer shall seize and impound the vessel. If necessary for transportation of the vessel for impoundment, the vessel's trailer may be used to transport the vessel.
- 73-18-12.8 **Removal or impoundment of vehicle used to tow a vessel which is impounded.** A vehicle used to tow a vessel which is impounded under this chapter may be removed under the provisions of 41-6-44.30(2), but if no person is able to move the vehicle under that section, the vehicle may be impounded if leaving it unattended is contrary to the safety of the public.

## **ACCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- 73-18-13(1) **Duties of operator involved in accident.** It is the duty of the operator of a vessel involved in an accident, if he can do so without seriously endangering his own vessel, crew, or passengers, to render aid to those affected by the accident as may be practicable. The operator shall also give his name, address, and identification of his vessel in writing to any person injured or to the owner of any property damaged in the accident.
- R651-223-1 **Notification of a boating accident.** An operator shall immediately and by the quickest means of communication available notify the nearest State Park Ranger or other law enforcement officer of an accident that involves a vessel or its equipment when one of the following occurs: a person dies or disappears from a vessel under circumstances that indicate death; a person is injured and receives medical treatment beyond first aid; or property is damaged in excess of \$500. This notification shall include:

- (a) the date, time, and location of the occurrence;
- (b) the name of each person who died or disappeared;
- (c) the assigned number of the vessel; and
- (d) the name and address of the owner and operator.

- R651-223-2      ***Operator unable to provide notification.*** If the operator cannot provide this notification, then another person on board shall make the notification required in R651-223-1.
- R651-223-3      ***Submitting an owner/operator accident report.*** The operator, owner, or other person on board shall submit a completed and signed Owner/Operator Boating Accident Report (PR-53A) to the Division within 10 days of the accident.
- 73-18-13(3)      ***Confidentiality of accident reports.*** All accident reports shall be for the confidential use of the Division or other state agencies having use for the records for accident prevention purposes, except that the Division may disclose the identity of a person involved in an accident when the person's identity is not otherwise known or when the person denies his presence at the accident. No report shall be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of an accident, except that the Division shall furnish upon demand of any person who has, or claims to have, made the report, or upon demand of any court, a certificate showing that a specified accident report has or has not been made to the Division solely to prove a compliance or a failure to comply with the requirement that a report be made to the Division. Reports may be used as evidence when necessary to prosecute charges filed in connection with a violation of 73-18-13(4).
- 73-18-13(4)      ***Providing false information in an accident report.*** Any person who gives false information, knowingly or having reason to believe it is false, in an oral or written report as required in this chapter, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

## **ENFORCEMENT OF UTAH'S BOATING ACT**

- 73-18-20(1)      ***Authority to enforce boating laws and rules.*** Any law enforcement officer authorized under Chapter 1a, Title 77, may enforce the provisions of this chapter and the rules promulgated under this chapter.
- 73-18-20(2)      ***Authority to stop and board a vessel.*** Any law enforcement officer authorized under Chapter 1a, Title 77, has the authority to stop and board any vessel subject to this chapter, whether the vessel is on water or land. If that officer determines the vessel is overloaded, unseaworthy, or the safety equipment required by this chapter or rules of the Board is not on the vessel, that officer may prohibit the launching of the vessel or stop the vessel from operating.
- 73-18-20(3)      ***Failure to stop.*** An operator who, having received a visual or audible signal from a law enforcement officer authorized under Chapter 1a, Title 77, to bring his vessel to a stop, operates his vessel in willful or wanton disregard of the signal so as to interfere with or endanger the operation of any vessel or endanger any person, or who attempts to flee or elude the officer whether by vessel or otherwise is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 73-18-21      ***Violations and associated punishments.*** Unless otherwise specified, any person who violates any provision of this chapter or rule promulgated under this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

*A class A misdemeanor is punishable with a fine of \$0 to \$2,500 and/or 0 to 1 year in jail.*

*A class B misdemeanor is punishable with a fine of \$0 to \$1,000 and/or 0 to 6 months in jail.*

*A class C misdemeanor is punishable with a fine of \$0 to \$750 and/or 0 to 90 days in jail.*

**EXCERPTS FROM:**

**THE UTAH LITTER LAW**

TITLE 41, CHAPTER 6, UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 1953, As Amended

- 41-6-114(1) **Destructive or injurious materials on highways, parks, recreation areas, waterways, or other public or private lands.** It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, deposit, or discard, or to permit to be dropped, thrown, deposited, or discarded upon any public road, highway, park, recreation area, or other public or private land, or waterway, any glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, wire, cans, barbed wire, boards, trash or garbage, paper or paper products, or any other substance which would or could mar or impair the scenic aspect or beauty of the land in the state whether under private, state, county, municipal, or federal ownership without the permission of the owner or person having control or custody of the land.
- 41-6-114(2) **Use of litter receptacles.** Any person who drops, throws, deposits, or discards, or permits to be dropped, thrown, deposited, or discarded, upon any public road, highway, park, recreation area, or other public or private land or waterway any destructive, injurious, or unsightly material shall:  
(a) immediately remove the material or cause it to be removed; and  
(b) deposit the material in a receptacle designed to receive the material.
- 41-6-114.1(1) **Penalty for littering.** Any person violating any of the provisions of Section 41-6-114 is guilty of a class C misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$100 for each violation.
- 41-6-114.1(2) **Community service as a condition of punishment.** The sentencing judge may impose as additional penalties the requirements that the offender devote at least four hours in cleaning up:  
(a) litter caused by him; and  
(b) existing litter from a safe area designated by the sentencing judge.

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**EXCERPTS FROM:**

**UTAH-BOATING LITTER AND POLLUTION CONTROL ACT**

TITLE 73, CHAPTER 18a, UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 1953, As Amended

- 73-18a-1(3) **"Human body waste"** means excrement, feces, or other waste material discharged from the human body.
- 73-18a-1(4) **"Litter"** means any bottles, glass, crockery, cans, scrap metal, junk, paper, garbage, rubbish, or similar refuse discarded as no longer useful.

- 73-18a-1(10) **"Waters of this state"** means all waters within the territorial limits of this state except those used exclusively for private purposes.
- 73-18a-2(1) **Litter and pollution.** A person may not place, throw, deposit, discard, drop, or discharge and the operator of a vessel may not permit to be placed, thrown, deposited, discarded, dropped, or discharged into or upon the waters of this state, or lands adjacent to these waters, any litter, human body waste, or other liquid or solid materials which may render the water or lands unsightly, noxious, or otherwise unwholesome or detrimental to the public health or welfare or the enjoyment of the water or lands for all legitimate uses, including recreational purposes.
- 73-18a-3(3) **Human waste.** No container of human body waste may be placed, left, discharged or caused to be placed, left, or discharged into or upon any waters of this state or lands adjacent to these waters by any person at any time.
- 73-18a-14 **Violation and punishment.** Unless otherwise specified, any person who violates any provision of this chapter or rule promulgated under this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
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**EXCERPTS FROM:**

**UTAH WATER SAFETY ACT**

TITLE 73, CHAPTER 18b, UTAH CODE ANNOTATED 1953, As Amended  
AND

**BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOATING RULES**

RULES OF THE BOARD ARE PRECEDED BY R651.

- R651-801-1 **Swimming prohibited.** No person shall engage in swimming activity in any of the following:  
(1) a designated "No Swimming" area;  
(2) a vessel launching, docking, mooring, or harbor area; or  
(3) near or in spillways or outlets.
- 73-18b-3 **Violation and punishment.** Any person who violates any rules made by the Board of Parks and Recreation under authority of this chapter is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

# APPENDIX

## **FEE SCHEDULE**

### **Outfitting Company Registration:**

Annual registration fee.....\$200.00

### **River Guide Permitting:**

River Guide 1 and 2 permits (valid for 3 years from date of issue).....\$ 30.00  
River Guide 3 and 4 permits (expire on Dec. 31 annually).....\$ 20.00 <sup>1</sup>  
Renewal of Guide 1 and 2 permits.....\$ 30.00 <sup>2</sup>  
Duplicates of Guide 1 and 2 permits.....\$ 15.00 <sup>2</sup>  
Duplicates of Guide 3 and 4 permits.....\$ 15.00 <sup>2</sup>  
Retesting, per attempt (7 day waiting period required between tests).....\$ 15.00

Guide 1 and 2 permits may be renewed up to six months prior to expiration.

<sup>1</sup> A \$10 credit may be issued to a holder of a valid Guide 3 permit if upgrading to a Guide 1 permit or the holder of a valid Guide 4 permit upgrading to a Guide 2 permit. The guide 3 or 4 permit must be surrendered at the time of application.

<sup>2</sup> Require new completed application and originals of current First Aid and CPR certification cards. Application for a duplicate permit must be done, in person with appropriate applicant identification, at one of the three river guide permit application, testing and issuance centers.

## **PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES - "NON-SERVICEABLE" DEFINED**

Personal floatation devices are non-serviceable if: missing or illegible United States Coast Guard approval numbers or related information, missing the approval tag, improper size for person, improper type for activity, after-market alteration is made, rips, tears, broken buckles, or missing straps, etc. United States Coast Guard justification for deeming a PFD non-serviceable with illegible approval numbers is that a PFD with an illegible approval number is believed to have undergone sufficient compromise to render the PFD non-serviceable. PFD integrity is compromised by deterioration from ultraviolet light, body oils, and general wear and tear.

## **INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF RIVER DIFFICULTY**

### **Safety Code of American Whitewater Affiliation**

(from the American Whitewater Affiliation's Safety Code)

This code has been prepared using the best available information and has been reviewed by a broad cross section of whitewater experts. The code, however, is only a collection of guidelines; attempts to minimize risks, should be flexible, not constrained by a rigid set of rules. Varying conditions and group goals may combine with unpredictable circumstances to require alternate procedures. This code is not intended to serve as a standard of care for commercial outfitters or guides.

### **International Scale of River Difficulty**

This is the American version of a rating system used to compare river difficulty throughout the world. This system is not exact; rivers do not always fit easily into one category, and regional or individual interpretations may cause misunderstandings. It is no substitute for a guidebook or accurate first-hand descriptions of a run.

Paddlers attempting difficult runs in an unfamiliar area should act cautiously until they get a feel for the way the scale is interpreted locally. River difficulty may change each year due to fluctuations in water level, downed trees, recent floods, geological disturbances, or bad weather. Stay alert for unexpected problems!

As river difficulty increases, the danger to paddlers becomes more severe. As rapids become longer and more continuous, the challenge increases. There is a difference between running an occasional Class IV rapid and dealing with an entire river of this category. Allow an extra margin of safety between skills and river ratings when the water is cold or if the river itself is remote and inaccessible.

An overall river rating should take into account many factors including the difficulty of individual rapids, remoteness, hazards, etc. Each rapid is rated at a specific range of levels. Note that under some circumstances a paddler may find that similarly rated rapids seem to differ an extraordinary amount due to unusual factors that may include boat type, weather, fatigue, and limited experience on certain types of whitewater.

### **The Six Difficulty Classes:**

**Class I: Easy.** Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. Few obstructions, all obvious and easily missed with little training.

**Class II: Novice.** Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers.

**Class III: Intermediate.** Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. Complex maneuvers in fast current and good boat control in tight passages or around ledges are often required; large waves or strainers may be present but are easily avoided. Strong eddies and powerful current effects can be found, particularly on large-volume rivers. Scouting is advisable for inexperienced parties.

**Class IV: Advanced.** Intense, powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water. Depending on the character of the river, it may feature large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under pressure. A fast, reliable eddy turn may be needed to initiate maneuvers, scout rapids, or rest. Scouting may be necessary the first time down.

**Class V: Expert.** Extremely long, obstructed, or very violent rapids which expose a paddler to added risk. Drops may contain large, unavoidable waves and holes or steep, congested chutes with complex, demanding routes. Rapids may continue for long distances between pools, demanding a high level of fitness. What eddies exist may be small, turbulent, or difficult to reach. Scouting is recommended but may be difficult.

**Class VI: Extreme and Exploratory.** These runs have almost never been attempted and often exemplify the extremes of difficulty, unpredictability and danger. The consequences of errors are very severe and rescue may be impossible. For teams of experts only, at favorable water levels, after close personal inspection and taking all precautions.

### **Additional whitewater safety information web sites:**

American Whitewater Affiliation.....[www.awa.org/](http://www.awa.org/)

River Management Society.....[www.river-management.org/](http://www.river-management.org/)